DOCKET NO.: MSFT-2793/304866.01
Application No.: 10/726,080
Office Action Dated: March 6, 2007

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Canceled)

8.   (Currently Amended) A database system for storing data comprising Extensible Markup Language (XML) instances, said database system comprising:

a processor;

~~a subsystem~~ program code executable by said processor for generating a container for XML schema namespaces; ~~and~~

~~a subsystem~~ program code executable by said processor for associating at least two XML schema namespace universal resource identifiers (URIs) with said container;

program code executable by said processor for validating an XML instance according to XML schema namespaces identified by said URIs;

~~a subsystem~~ program code executable by said processor for storing said XML instance in a database column; and

~~a subsystem~~ program code executable by said processor for typing said database column with said container. ~~, wherein said database system allows stores said XML instance to be stored in the database column only if said XML instance is validated according to an XML schema namespace identified by one of said at least two XML schema namespace URIs.~~

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently Amended) The database system of claim 8, further comprising ~~a subsystem~~ program code executable by said processor that comprises an import function which modifies said container so that it refers to at least one schema component in an XML schema namespace other than XML schema namespaces identified by said at least two XML schema namespace URIs.

11.   (Currently Amended) The database system of claim 8, further comprising ~~a subsystem~~ program code executable by said processor that comprises an include function

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which allows assembly of schema components for a single namespace from several schema documents.

12.   (Currently Amended) The database system of claim 8, further comprising a subsystem program code executable by said processor that comprises an alter function which adds schema components to XML schema namespaces within said container.

13-19. (Canceled)

20.   (Currently Amended) A method of validating Extensible Markup Language (XML) instances to determine whether said XML instances may be stored in a column of a relational database, said method comprising:

creating a container for XML schema namespaces;

associating at least two XML schema namespaces with said container;

typing a column of a relational database with said container; and

ensuring that the an XML instance conforms to at least one schema associated with at least one of said at least two XML schema namespaces; and

storing said XML instance in said column only if said XML instance conforms to said least one schema.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising modifying said container so that the container refers to schema components in other XML schema namespaces.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising assembling schema components for a single namespace to be associated with said container from several schema documents.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising adding schema components to XML schema namespaces within said container for XML schema namespaces.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising locating a schema that is referred to by an XML schema namespace in the container for XML schema namespaces.

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25.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising computer readable modules having computer executable instructions for interfacing with a storage location for storing XML instances in a computing system, the modules comprising:

computer readable instructions for collecting a plurality of XML schema namespaces in a container for XML schema namespaces; and

computer readable instructions for typing said database column with said container;

computer readable instructions for validating that an XML instance conforms to a schema identified by said XML schema namespaces; and

computer readable instructions for storing said XML instance is in said database column if said XML instance is validated.

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 25, further comprising computer readable instructions for modifying said container so that said container refers to schema components in other XML schema namespaces.

28.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 25, further comprising computer readable instructions that allows assembly of schema components for a single namespace from several schema documents.

29.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 25, further comprising computer readable instructions that adds schema components to XML schema namespaces within at least one of said one or more containers for XML schema namespaces.

30.   (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 25, further comprising computer readable instructions that locate a schema that is referred to by an XML schema namespace in the container for XML schema namespaces.

31 – 36. (Canceled)